

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WARSAW 01355 041012Z

20

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 /069 W

----- 121069

R 040926Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0094

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 1355

ROME FOR SARROS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, PL

SUBJECT: POLISH EPISCOPATE POSITION ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

REF: WARSAW 916

1. THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE EPISCOPATE, HELD ON FEBRUARY 18-19, WHICH WE OBTAINED ON MARCH 1, PROVIDES A DEFINITIVE STATEMENT OF THE EPISCOPATE'S POSITION ON THE RECENT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS (REF). THE RELEVANT PASSAGE, CITING THE EPISCOPATE'S EARLIER MEMORANDA TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM COMMISSION, DECLARES: QUOTE THE CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PRL ADOPTED BY THE SEJM ON FEBRUARY 10, 1976, DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL THE DESIDERATA SUBMITTED BY POLISH SOCIETY, ALTHOUGH IT SHOULD BE ADMITTED THAT THE EXTRAORDINARY SEJM COMMISSION, REALIZING THE BROAD CONCERN OF CATHOLIC OPINION, MET IT IN PART. FEARS STILL REMAIN, HOWEVER, CONCERNING THE MANNER IN WHICH THE RULES OF THE REFORMED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 WARSAW 01355 041012Z

CONSTITUTION WILL BE INTERPRETED AND IMPLEMENTED. THE

POLISH BISHOPS ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THE BEST WAY TO GIVE THE NECESSARY STANDING IN THE BROADEST SENSE TO THE CONSTITUTION WILL BE HONEST INTERPRETATION OF ITS POSTULATES, WITHOUT ANY TENDENTIOUSNESS, IN THE SPIRIT OF EQUALITY OF RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF ALL CITIZENS, AS WELL AS SCRUPULOUS IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE POSTULATES AT ALL LEVELS OF STATE ADMINISTRATION AND IN THE ENTIRE SOCIAL LIFE. ON THIS WILL DEPEND, ABOVE ALL, SOCIAL PEACE AND THE HARMONIOUS COOPERATION OF VARIOUS SOCIAL GROUPS FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF THE FATHERLAND, ITS WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT. END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT: EPISCOPATE "COMMUNIQUE" FOLLOWING EACH PLENARY SESSION ARE DISSEMINATED IN TYPEWRITTEN FORM ON A DISCRETE BASIS AND, ON REQUEST, TO INTERESTED EMBASSIES AND FOREIGN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES HERE. ALTHOUGH OCCASIONALLY PUBLISHED IN ABBREVIATED FORM BY TYGODNIK POWSZECHNY, THE INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC WEEKLY, WHICH IS CAREFULLY CENSORED BY THE REGIME, THEY ARE IGNORED BY THE CENTRAL PRESS. THEIR MAIN POINTS ARE OFTEN COMMUNICATED TO THE FAITHFUL IN THE FORM OF PASTORAL LETTERS READ FROM THE PULPIT ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY.

3. THE EPISCOPATE STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGES GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO MEET CHURCH OBJECTIONS TO THE AMENDMENTS AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED. HOWEVER, IT EXPRESSES CONTINUED RESERVATIONS AND WARNS THAT SOCIAL PEACE WILL DEPEND ON PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES BY THE GOVERNMENT. IN MAKING THIS STATEMENT, THE CHURCH IS CAREFULLY BARING ITS GREATEST WEAPON-- ITS POTENTIAL EITHER TO AROUSE SOCIETY OR HELP CALM IT IN THE EVENT OF POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. THE REGIME CANNOT HELP BUT READ THIS AS A WARNING THAT, DEPENDING ON THE REGIME'S PERFORMANCE REGARDING RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES, THE CHURCH IS PREPARED TO GRANT OR WITHHOLD ITS SUPPORT IF A PERIOD OF TENSION DEVELOPS WHEN THE REGIME COMES TO GRIPS WITH THE QUESTION OF RAISING THE PRICES OF BASIC COMMODITIES.

DAVIES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VOTING, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION, COMMUNIQUES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976WARSAW01355
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760082-0753
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760392/aaaadduu.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 WARSAW 916
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLISH EPISCOPATE POSITION ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM
TAGS: PINT, PL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006